

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/739,884

Examiner

Carlos Lugo

Applicant(s)

BELCHINE ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed on August 1, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 5-19 and 21.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 01 August 2005 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 7/29/05.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in response to applicant's amendment filed on August 1, 2005.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. **Claims 1,5-19, and 21 are allowed.**

Reasons For Allowance

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1,11 and 21 are allowable over the prior art of record because the teachings of the references taken as a whole do not teach or render obvious the combination set forth, including that the projection of the partition wall is accepted in both apertures of the latch handle and the lock lever.

Sano (US 6,167,779) discloses a door handle assembly comprising a housing (1) that includes a first outer wall (the opposing wall with respect to 5b, Figure 4), a second outer wall (over 5b, Figure 4), and a partition wall (5a) between said first and second outer walls. The partition wall defines a projection (6) extending toward the second outer wall. The door handle assembly further comprises a latch handle (2) and a lock lever (15). The latch handle defines a latch handle aperture receiving the partitioned wall projection therein and the lock lever defining a lock lever aperture receiving the partitioned wall projection therein. Sano also illustrates that the latch handle have an extension spanning the partition wall (Figure 4). Sano also discloses that the lock lever is disposed in a chamber defined between the partition wall and the second outer wall. The latch handle has a panel extending into the chamber. The lock lever is disposed between the panel and the second outer wall (Figure 4).

Sano fails to disclose that the latch handle and the lock lever define projections that will be received in apertures at the first and second outer walls. Sano discloses that the latch handle and the lock lever define apertures that will receive projections defined at the first and second outer walls and that the apertures and the projections are in substantially axial alignment. A reversal of components in a prior art reference is a design consideration within the skill of the art that will not affect the mechanism.

However, Sano fails to disclose that the projection of the partition wall engages both apertures of the latch handle and the lock lever. Sano discloses that the partition wall has two projections, one to engage the latch handle and the other one to engage the lock lever.

Tanimoto (US 5,895,081) also discloses a door handle assembly comprising a housing (2) that includes a first outer wall, a second outer wall (21 and 23), and a partition wall (22) between said first and second outer walls. The partition wall defines a projection (22a) extending toward the second outer wall. The door handle assembly further comprises a latch handle (3) and a lock lever (4). The latch handle defines a latch handle aperture (312a) receiving a partitioned wall projection therein and the lock lever defining a lock lever aperture receiving the partitioned wall projection therein. Tanimoto '081 also illustrates that the lock lever is disposed in a chamber defined between the partition wall and the second outer wall. The latch handle has a panel extending into the chamber. The lock lever is disposed between the panel and the second outer wall (Figure 3).

Tanimoto '081 also fails to disclose that the latch handle and the lock lever defines projections that will be received in apertures at the first and second outer walls and that the latch handle have an extension spanning the partition wall. Tanimoto '081 discloses that the latch handle and the lock lever define apertures that will receive projections defined at the first and second outer walls. The apertures and the projections are in substantially axial alignment.

As state before, the reversal of components in a prior art reference is a design consideration within the skill of the art that will not affect the mechanism.

However, Tanimoto '081 also fails to disclose that the projection of the partition wall engages both apertures of the latch handle and the lock lever. Tanimoto discloses that the partition wall has two projections, one to engage the latch handle and the other one to engage the lock lever.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carlos Lugo whose telephone number 571-272-7058. The examiner can normally be reached on 9-6pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Glessner can be reached on 571-272-6843. The fax phone number

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for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-5771.

C.C.

Carlos Lugo
AU 3676

August 17, 2005.


BRIAN E. GLESSNER
PRIMARY EXAMINER